

Message Text

SECRET

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61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 MC-02 EB-11 IGA-02 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

GAC-01 RSR-01 /159 W

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R 231810 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4542

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 6082

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, PK

SUBJECT: IRANIAN ARMS TRANSFERS TO PAKISTAN

REF: (A) TEHRAN 3357; (B) STATE 85782

1. EMBASSY TEHRAN HAS OUTLINED PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN TRANSFER OF NON- LETHAL US EQUIPMENT FROM IRAN TO PAKISTAN FROM POINT OF VIEW OF INDIAN REACTION SO WELL THAT WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM CHIMING IN. WE UNDERSTAND USG DECISION OUTLINED IN REF B AND IF AND WHEN IRAN MAKES NVALE OR TRANSFER OF NON- LETHAL EQUIPMENT OF TYPE SUGGESTED IN TEHRAN' S 2368, WE WILL PROVIDE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WITH BACKGROUND ON US POLICY ON THIRD- COUNTRY TRANSFERS.

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2. POINT MADE IN REF A, PARA 3 ABOUT THE " OPENING WEDGE SYNDROME" IS VERY REAL, AND VIRTUALLY COMPULSIVE AMONG INDIAN OFFICIALS, MILITARY, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, AND PRESS. IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSIBLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ANYONE IN DELHI WITHOUT THE QUESTION OF US ARMS TO IRAN, IRANIAN- PAKISTANI COOPERATION, AND THE POTENTIAL DANGER (IN INDIAN EYES) THAT THE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH WE ARE APPLYING IRAN WILL EITHER BE TRANSFERRED TO PAKISTAN, MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PAKS ON LOAN, OR PUT AT THEIR DISPOSAL THROUGH DIRECT IRANIAN MILITARY COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN. RUSH- SISCO CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH PROVIDED JUST ONE SAMPLE-- RELATIVELY LOW KEY-- OF THIS.

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE REPEATEDLY ECHOED THE THEME OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT ONE THING THE INDIANS CAN DO IS TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN RELATIONS WITH IRAN. THE PROBLEM IS ONE, HOWEVER, WHICH DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO REASONED EXPOSTULATION HERE. NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT THE GUIDANCE IN REF B ON THIRD- COUNTRY SALES (AND THE DECISION TO SELL AMMUNITION ON A CASE- BY- CASE BASIS) WILL EASE INDIAN CONCERNS. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION IN TEHRAN' S 2368, PARA 4, THAT WE MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN THAT IT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH INDIAN CONCERNS AND URGE THEM TO DO SO. OUR IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT THE IRANIANS HAVE NOT BEEN PERSUASIVE IN RESPONDING TO INDIAN INQUIREES ABOUT THEIR ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE US. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE INDIANS AND IRANIANS HAVE DISCUSSED ARM TRANSFERS TO PAKISTAN. IF NOT, THE TIME IS NOW. MOYNIHAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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